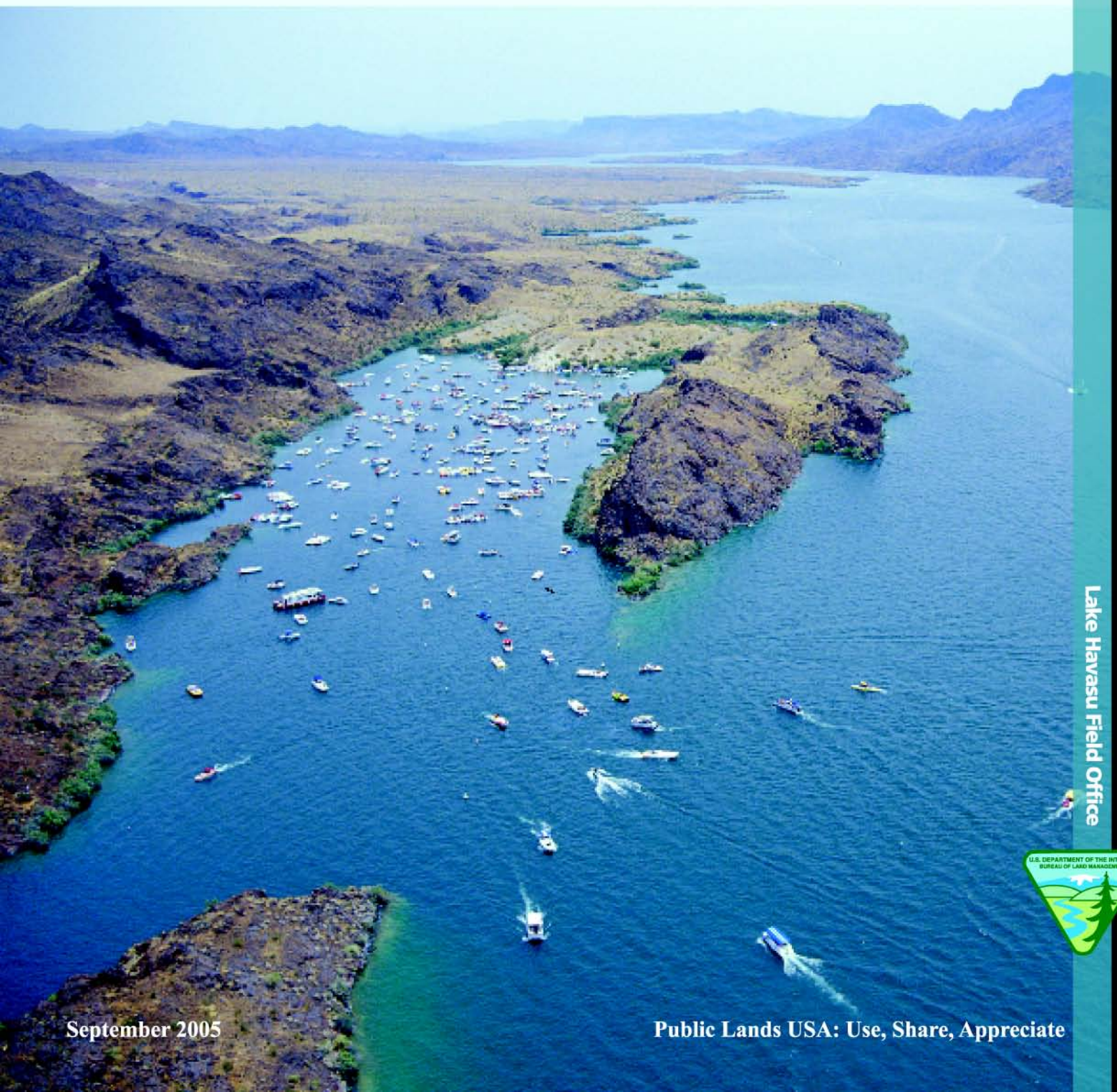
United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Lake Havasu Field Office
Draft Resource Management Plan
and Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Volume I - Chapters 1, 2 and 3



BLM

Lake Havasu Field Office

September 2005

Public Lands USA: Use, Share, Appreciate

Abstract

The Lake Havasu Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing approximately 1.3 million acres of public land in Northwestern Arizona and Eastern California along the Colorado River and east to Alamo Dam and the Harcuvar Mountains. Information provided by the public, other agencies and organizations, and BLM personnel has been used to develop and analyze the alternatives is this DRMP/DEIS. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative and represents continuation of current management. Alternative 2 emphasizes preservation of undeveloped primitive landscapes and opportunities for non-motorized recreation. Alternative 3 emphasizes recreation and resource development. Alternative 4 makes land available for recreation and resource development with greater opportunities to experience natural settings than in Alternative 2. Alternative 5, the agency Preferred Alternative, provides for a balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources.

Major issues addressed in the DRMP/DEIS are identification of lands that would be made available for disposal, management of recreation and public access, designation and management of Special Area Designations, management of areas having wilderness characteristics, management of wild burros around Lake Alamo, and BLM's role in the management of Lake Havasu.

Front Cover Photo: Lake Havasu Steamboat Cove May 2005
Photo Courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:
1610 (931)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Lake Havasu Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for your review and comment. This document describes our proposed plan and four alternative plans, including the no action alternative, for management of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed public lands within the Lake Havasu Field Office boundaries. The plan will establish management goals and objectives for the Field Office. The Field Office includes more than 1.3 million acres of public lands and on both sides of the Colorado River in California and Arizona.

The BLM wishes to express its appreciation to all of those who contributed their time and expertise to this planning effort, other governmental agencies, public organizations, State, tribal entities, and interested individuals. Public collaboration through the scoping process led to shaping of issues covering grazing, recreation, wildlife, minerals, cultural resources, land tenure, designation of areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and access to public lands and other topics.

Written comments will be considered in the development of the Final RMP and EIS. Comments are most useful when they address one or more of the following:

- Errors in the analysis;
- New scientific information that would have a bearing on the analysis;
- Misinformation that could affect the outcome of the analysis;
- Requests for clarification;
- A substantive new alternative whose mix of allocations differs from those under any of the existing alternatives.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at Bureau of Land Management, 2610 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The 90-day public comment period for the Draft RMP and EIS will begin September 16 and ends December 15, 2005. All comments must be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration in preparation of the Final RMP and EIS. The Draft RMP will be posted on our website (listed below). No copies will be mailed out until 7 days prior to the start of the comment period. To request a printed copy of the draft plan and/or submit your written comments, please contact:

BLM Lake Havasu Field Office
Gina Trafton, Team Lead
2610 Sweetwater Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

Phone: 1-928-505-1273
Toll-Free: 1-888-213-2582, ext 273
Email: Gina_Trafton@blm.gov
Website: www.az.blm.gov/lhfo/

We appreciate your interest and encourage your continued involvement in the planning process.

Sincerely,

Elaine Y. Zielinski

Elaine Y. Zielinski
State Director

Lake Havasu Field Office
Draft Resource Management Plan
and
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared by

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Lake Havasu Field Office
Arizona

September 2005

Elaine Y. Zielinski
State Director, Arizona

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) to provide direction for managing public lands within the Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) and to analyze the environmental effects resulting from implementing the alternatives addressed in this document.

The planning area boundary includes the Colorado River from Davis Dam in the north, (bordering Nevada/Arizona) to south of Parker Dam. On the California side, the planning area varies in width from less than one-quarter mile to approximately 6 miles west of the Colorado River. The planning area also trends east to Alamo Dam and the Harcuvar Mountains, which are located near the community of Wenden, Arizona. The planning area includes three incorporated cities, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and the town of Parker, Arizona, along with more than a dozen smaller communities, and encompasses more than 1.3 million acres of BLM administered public land, resources, and uses. See Map ES-1.

This DRMP/DEIS was prepared in compliance with BLM's planning regulations contained in title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600 under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This document also meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the *Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the NEPA* (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the requirements of BLM's NEPA Handbook 1790-1.

Purpose and Need

Currently, the LHFO manages resources under portions of four different land use plans: The Yuma District Resource Management Plan (YRMP) (1987), the Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan (KRMP) (1995), the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (LGSRMP) (1988), and the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (LGNMFP) (1983). This DRMP/DEIS combines the relevant portions of those documents and updates the plan with issues and concerns identified during the public scoping process. The purpose of this plan is to provide direction that will guide future land management actions for BLM administered lands within the planning area. The DRMP/DEIS analyzes alternatives to resolve management issues, determines

management objectives and actions, and establishes monitoring methods to facilitate multiple use and sustained yield management for the entire planning area.

Issues

The Notice of Intent to prepare the DRMP/DEIS was published in the Federal Register on August 3, 2001. LHFO held ten open houses during 2001 and 2003 and solicited comments using comment forms, and informational flyers (distributed by mail and by hand). LHFO also invited public participation in the planning process through the use of the BLM website. Since public scoping began, approximately 1,000 comments were received from the public, agencies, organizations and other interested stakeholders. Of the comments received**,** 25% concerned recreation issues, 25% concerned public access issues, and 10% concerned disposal or retention of public lands. The remaining comments were divided equally between other resources, and the totals are reflected below in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1. Comments Received by Topic

General Topic	Number of Comments
Administrative	79
Cultural Resource	36
Fish and Wildlife	55
Grazing	20
Lands	107
Minerals	42
Recreation	260
Special Status Species	19
Transportation	212
Vegetation	28
Visual Resources	19
Wild and Scenic Rivers	18
Wild Horse and Burros	26
Wilderness	60

Local communities were extremely concerned about which public lands would be open for disposal. The comments were divided; some requested there be more Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) access and open areas while others asked for more controls on OHV use.

Specific comments voiced the desire to close dispersed camping close to some communities, while others wanted more camping or Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs) be developed. Other comments included complaints about disturbing wildlife by other uses (OHV, grazing, burros), poaching, ensure that rockhounding and recreational mining

will continue on public lands. Finally there were special requests for designated shooting ranges, additional boat ramps on south end of Lake Havasu and that a shoreline trail be constructed along Arizona side of the Colorado River. Many comments involved the management of Lake Havasu and were beyond the scope of this RMP such as concern for boat speeds, noise, overall safety and requests for quiet days on the lake.

To meet BLM's goal: "*To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations,*" the DRMP/DEIS focuses on the following 14 topics and the potential decisions needed to influence future actions:

- Biological Resources (including special status species, aquatic species, vegetation, wildlife habitat management)
- Cultural Resources
- Fire Management
- Grazing
- Lake Havasu Regional Management Area
- Lands and Realty (including use authorizations, disposals and acquisition of public lands)
- Mineral Management
- Paleontological Resources
- Public lands with wilderness characteristics
- Recreation
- Special Area Designations (including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Wilderness Areas, proposed Wild and Scenic River Segments and Backcountry Byways).
- Transportation and Public Access
- Visual Resources
- Wild Horse and Burros

Alternatives

The basic goal of developing alternatives was to prepare different combinations of management to address issues and to resolve conflicts among uses. Alternatives must meet the purpose and need; must be reasonable; must provide a mix of resource protection, use, and development; must be responsive to the issues; and must meet the established planning criteria. Three types of land use plan decisions are found under each topic for each alternative: Desired Future Conditions (resource objectives), Land Use Allocations (specific areas of public land where certain uses or actions are allowed, excluded or restricted), and Management Actions (prescriptions to help achieve management objectives).

Under each alternative, BLM will manage BLM-administered public lands in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and BLM policy and guidance, and to meet Land Health Standards. These types of actions do not require a management decision and are generally described under Chapter 2 as *Typical Management Actions and Standard Operating Procedures*.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alterative is designed to best respond to each of the issues and management concerns recognized during the planning process. BLM has determined that the management actions presented under the Preferred Alternative would provide an optimal balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources within the planning area.

Alternative 1 (No Action)

The No Action Alternative represents current management, as outlined in portions of the YRMP (1987), KRMP (1995), LGSRMP (1988) and LGNMFP (1983), as amended since approval of the records of decision for those plans. This alternative includes a broad array of management methods for various resources, with approaches changing over the planning area corresponding to the boundaries of the former Yuma District, Kingman Resource Area, Lower Gila South and North areas.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 is designed to promote conservation and protection for natural resources through a focus on natural processes and other discrete methods for resource management, minimal human use and influence, and enhanced protection of remoteness and primitive recreation.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 places emphasis on resource use and a more flexible, permissive resource management approach. It focuses on the widest array of visitor experiences as well as the highest levels of motorized recreation.

Alternative 4

Alternative 4 is designed to balance the uses in LHFO. This balance is achieved by emphasizing different resources and uses in different areas of LHFO.

Public Involvement

BLM continued its collaborative efforts by including communities in the formulation of alternatives. The Open Houses gave citizens the opportunity to refine issues, discuss visions for BLM lands, and begin exploring alternative ways to manage BLM lands and resources. Input received from citizens (both groups and individuals) was considered in developing the alternatives. Citizens were encouraged to submit formulated alternatives. These submissions were also considered in the range of alternatives and analyzed in the DEIS, as required by NEPA. BLM attended numerous meetings to discuss RMP issues when invited. The LHFO website (http://www.az.LHFO.gov/lhfo/) posted information concerning the plan and encouraged participation throughout the planning process. If this site is unavailable, the information may be accessed at <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/planning.htm>, and by clicking on the "Arizona" link.

The DRMP/DEIS was developed with the following Cooperating Agencies: Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona Department of Transportation.

The DRMP/DEIS was a collaborative effort with other agencies, local governments, and citizens including: Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Arizona State Parks, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, the City of Needles, Mohave County, La Paz County, San Bernardino County, the town of Parker; and the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program partners, including the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Anglers United.

BLM also consulted with tribes who have oral traditions or cultural concerns relating to the planning area, or who are documented as having historically occupied or used portions of the planning area. Four tribes, the Chemehuevi, Fort Mohave, Hopi, and Colorado River Indian Tribes provided comments.

Environmental Setting

The planning area is best described by the following geographical regions:

- The Colorado River, within the LHFO boundary, is regulated by three dams: Davis, Parker, and Headgate. BLM is directly responsible for the Lake Havasu bottom between the old river channel, and the high water mark of 450 feet above sea level. BLM has no aquatic habitat authority in the Colorado River channel. The vegetative community in this area is described as the Lower Colorado River Valley Subdivision of the Sonoran Desertscrub Biome. Both sides of the river contain a mixture of Mojave and Sonoran desert species. Small inlets and backwaters occur along the river that are critical to aquatic species diversity and productivity. Associated riparian and marsh areas are essential to sustain neotropical migratory species. The four largest incorporated towns (Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City, Needles, and Parker) within the planning area are found along the Colorado River. These towns and the smaller communities along State Route 95 north of Interstate 40 create a

growing urban interface with BLM lands. Tourism and recreational development provided by BLM, BLM concessionaires, private enterprises, and state-run entities are major economic components of the local economy. Lake Havasu is a major tourist designation with most summer visitors coming from three major metropolitan areas: Los Angeles Basin, California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Phoenix, Arizona. Winter visitors predominately come from the northern Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Canada.

- The Bill Williams River flowing westward from Alamo Dam constitutes a unique riparian area populated by cottonwoods, willows, large acacia, and mesquite intermixing with the bulrushes and cattails. Invasive Tamarisk species have infiltrated and in many areas have replaced these native riparian species. The riparian and marsh areas are utilized by neotropical migratory species, including the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, and yellow-billed cuckoo. Mammal species including desert bighorn sheep, beaver, and mule deer utilize the area, as do numerous reptiles and amphibians. BLM is also directly responsible for aquatic habitat in the Bill Williams River. Two of the five nationally designated wilderness areas the BLM manages in Arizona are found along the Bill Williams River (Swansea and Rawhide Mountains Wildernesses). Three segments of this river have been nominated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Private lands along the river are highly modified and include Lincoln and Planet Ranches. The recreational activities include primitive and wilderness camping and exploring backcountry trails, both on foot and in 4-wheel-drive vehicles. In addition, there is one developed recreation area located at Alamo Lake and is operated by Arizona State Parks.
- Mojave/ Sonoran Desert Areas constitute the majority of the planning area. The Bill Williams River is the dividing feature for plant species. North of the River, the desert mountains and washes include a unique intermixing of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts plants (such as Ocotillos and Joshua Trees). South of the River, the desert floor is dry, with Sonoran defining plants such as the giant Saguaro Cactus. Washes located throughout the planning area may include ironwood, palo verde, catclaw acacia, desert willow, smoketree, and wolfberry. The larger washes are differentiated by the presence of mesquite and desert saltbush. South of the Bill Williams River the topography opens to become large flat sandy plains (such as East Cactus Plains Wilderness, Cactus Plains Wilderness Study Area), and other broad valleys (such as McMullen, and Butler). A major economic component is the influx of winter visitors. These visitors tend to stay in RV parks in small communities such as Brenda, Bouse, Hope, and Salome, or camp on public lands as long as 14 days. A popular recreational pastime is using OHVs to explore the planning area's vast open spaces and resources via the backcountry trails. A favorite winter outing is touring Historic Swansea, a copper mining town, (established in 1907). This ghost town is one of the many properties within the planning area that are known to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

A summary of the key decisions for each resource is reflected below in Table ES-2.

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
Cultural Resources				
Not specifically addressed in previous plans	Allocate 6 areas as Special Cultural Resource Management Areas.			
Site Allocation	Site Allocation	Site Allocation	Site Allocation	Site Allocation
14 Conservation for Future Use	35 Conservation for Future Use	25 Conservation for Future Use	28 Conservation for Future Use	28 Conservation for Future Use
0 Traditional Use	7 Traditional Use	5 Traditional Use	7 Traditional Use	7 Traditional Use
1 Public Use	6 Public Use	11 Public Use	8 Public Use	8 Public Use
Paleontological Resources				
Not specifically addressed in previous plans.	BLM would preserve and protect significant vertebrate paleontological resources for present and future generations. Scientifically significant invertebrates (to be determined by a qualified paleontologist) would also be protected.			
Biological Resources				
Not specifically addressed in previous plans	Conserve habitat and work toward the recovery of threatened and endangered species, as well as reduce the likelihood of additional species listings under the ESA and CESA (MSCP).			

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
The following decisions are derived from the 1987 YRMP and is applicable only to the lands covered by that plan: Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration for the 243,100 acres in the LHFO planning area. Areas with important wildlife values will be referred to as WHAs. Allowable uses within the Bill Williams Riparian Management Area are limited to compatible activities or uses, which preserve or enhance the area's recognized values. Improvements are limited to those compatible with the natural resources and those permitted by mining laws.	737,127 acres in the LHFO planning area would be cooperatively managed as WHAs with state and federal wildlife agencies. This land is composed of: ▪ Riparian Habitat ▪ Bighorn Sheep Habitat ▪ Desert Tortoise Habitat (I, II) ▪ T&E Species Habitat	WHAs would not be established.	737,127 acres in the LHFO planning area would be cooperatively managed as WHAs with state and federal wildlife agencies. This land is composed of: ▪ Riparian Habitat ▪ Bighorn Sheep Habitat ▪ Desert Tortoise Habitat (I, II) ▪ T&E Species Habitat	
Not specifically addressed in previous plans	Fish habitat improvements in Lake Havasu would be maintained to sustain fish productivity by providing permanent escape cover and rearing habitat for young. Damaged artificial reef structures would be repaired if needed and replaced in the original location. This work would be accomplished cooperatively by the Lake Havasu Fisheries Partnership program.			
Not specifically addressed in previous plans.	An area of 7 acres of Lake Havasu bottom would receive organic brush maintenance each year to replace woody habitat improvements that have decomposed over the previous 10-year period. This process would occur only in areas that already contain fish habitat improvements.			

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
1995 KRMP: Restrict development of campgrounds to areas outside of riparian zones and the 100-year floodplain.	New facilities and campgrounds would be located outside the 100-year floodplain and not near riparian-wetland areas. Existing facilities would be used in a way that does not conflict with riparian-wetland functions or relocated.	New facilities and campgrounds would be located at an appropriate distance away from riparian-wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function.	New incompatible facilities and campgrounds would be located outside existing riparian-wetland areas. Existing facilities would be used in a way that is compatible with riparian-wetland functions or relocated/modified.	New facilities and campgrounds would be located away from riparian wetland areas if they were incompatible with achieving or maintaining riparian wetland function.

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
1995 KRMP: Wildlife movement corridors and lands between mountains in southern Mohave County would be established	A total of 15 wildlife movement corridors would be managed to enable free wildlife movement.	The Buck Mountain Wash wildlife movement corridor would continue to be managed.	Six wildlife movement corridors would be allocated.	
Recreation Management				
Not specifically addressed in previous plans.	Identification of Seven (7) Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and associated internal Recreation Management Zones (RMZs).			
The following decision is derived from the 1987 YRMP and is applicable only to the lands covered by that plan: No permits or fee would be necessary for recreation-related collection of dead and detached firewood in the vicinity (100 yards) of campsites for campfires. (See "Biological Resource Management.")	Collection of firewood for dispersed camping would be prohibited within the planning area. (See "Biological Resource Management" in this chapter.)	Collection of dead and down firewood within the vicinity (300 feet) of a dispersed campsite would be authorized for campsite use only, unless otherwise posted. (See "Biological Resource Management" in this chapter.)	Collection of dead and down wood within the LHFO would be prohibited except for wood collected within the vicinity (100 feet) of a dispersed campsite for campsite use only. Firewood collection for campsites may be closed within specific areas identified in activity plans. Education would be used to promote use of commercial firewood and camping stoves on public lands. (See "Biological Resource Management" in this chapter.)	

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
Not specifically addressed in previous plans.	Paintball activities would not be allowed in wilderness areas and ACECs. Such activities would be allowed elsewhere in the planning area, if suitable to other resource management objectives and special management allocations. In addition Paintball activities would be restricted in accordance with local and State laws governing shooting sports.	Paintball activities would be allowed beyond 1 mile of any established facilities, sites, or special designations and restricted to those areas of least visible impact.	Paintball activities would not be allowed in wilderness areas and ACECs. Such activities would be allowed elsewhere in the planning area, if suitable to other resource management objectives and special management allocations. In addition Paintball activities would be restricted in accordance with local and State laws governing shooting sports.	
Not specifically addressed in previous plans.	Target Shooting would be prohibited on public lands, except for R&PP and commercial leases specifically designed to manage these activities.	Target Shooting would be allowed beyond 1 mile of any established facilities or sites, campgrounds, residences, trailheads, staging areas, roads, Special Area Designations and other areas as posted.	Shooting sports would be governed by the local and state laws applicable across the field office boundaries. The activities may be further restricted where public safety and significant resource concerns exist.	
Transportation & Public Access				
Route designation would be handled in individual activity level plans.	Within 5 years of the ROD, a Travel Management Network Plan will be completed for LHFO. This plan would designate all routes within the planning area. The *Route Evaluation Tree* (see Chapter 2, "Description of Alternatives") outlines the process that would be followed.			
Lands and Realty Management				
51,949 acres of Land available for Sale, Exchange, R&PP Leasing and Disposal.	34,159 acres of Land available for Sale, Exchange, R&PP Leasing and Disposal.	83,475 of Land available for Sale, Exchange, R&PP Leasing and Disposal.	56,715 acres of Land available for Sale, Exchange, R&PP Leasing and Disposal	

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
The following decisions are derived from the 1987 YRMP as amended and are applicable only to those lands covered by the YRMP: As part of the land ownership adjustment program for lands covered under the former Yuma RMP, LHFO would seek to consolidate surface and subsurface (mineral) estates under one ownership whenever possible. This practice would eliminate potential problems associated with split estate land and thereby improve manageability of the federal, state, or privately owned lands involved. Split estate consolidation would be achieved by exchanges with the states or private owners and in accordance with guidelines delineated in Section 206 of FLPMA. Any lands acquired by BLM would include both the surface and the mineral estate whenever possible. *The following decisions are derived from the 1995 KRMP and are applicable only to*	BLM would dispose of federal minerals underlying state and private land and acquire nonfederal minerals underlying public lands to eliminate split estate property. Any lands acquired by BLM would include both the surface and the mineral estate whenever possible.			

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
those lands covered by the KRMP: BLM would dispose of federal minerals underlying state and private land and acquire nonfederal minerals underlying public lands to eliminate split estate property. BLM would acquire the following non-federal minerals and close to mineral entry: T. 20 N., R. 21 W., sections 32 (S½) and 33 (all), and T. 19 N., R. 21 W., sections 5 (all), 7 (E½, NW¼, N½SW¼), 9 (all). *The following decision is derived from the 1985 LGSRMP and is applicable only to those lands covered by the LGSRMP:* BLM would acquire approximately 7,360 acres of state/private minerals and dispose of approximately 11,170 acres of federal minerals that underlie state or privately owned surface estates. The mineral estates to be acquired and disposed of are listed in Appendix G.				

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
Existing plans have four designated communication sites. 1987 YRMP: All communication facilities on Black Peak (one of the nine sites proposed for designation under the Preferred Alternative) would be phased out.	Designate a total of three communication sites; two designated sites would be carried forward and designate one new site. Undesignate two existing sites; and carry forward Yuma RMP decision to phase out and relocate communication facilities on Black Peak.			
No sand and gravel permits or new utility ROWs would be authorized in the three areas managed under special prescriptions. No additional utility ROWs would be authorized in the Crossman Peak Natural Scenic area; except applications for terminal utility distribution lines to serve private land may be accepted and considered to the extent needed to provide reasonable access pursuant to federal law.	Within the boundaries of Special Area Designations (such as but not limited to: ACEC, Wilderness Study Area, proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers, etc.) as identified in this RMP, no new utility and roads ROWs would be authorized, with the exception of utilities and access roads that provide service to nonfederal land within these areas. One additional ROW would be issued in the proposed Crossman Peak ACEC to authorize an existing building and two towers on public land in T. 14 N., R. 19 W. section 13, lot 1.			
Six designated and seven identified corridors.	14 designated corridors	16 designated corridors	Designate a total of 15 corridors; including three new corridors; dropped one corridor identified in the Yuma RMP.	

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
Wild Horse and Burro Management				
Not specifically addressed in previous plans.	The area north of Lake Havasu City (west of Highway 95 and east of the Colorado River) would be excluded from the Havasu HMA.	The Havasu HMA boundary would continue to be the same as the HA boundary.	The area north of Lake Havasu City (west of Highway 95 and east of the Colorado River) would be excluded from the Havasu HMA.	
The HMA boundary would be as shown on Map ES-2, and includes public land and those lands within the Alamo Wildlife Area.	Based on threatened and endangered species, riparian, and wildlife issues, the eastern Alamo HMA boundary would follow the western Palmerita Allotment boundary, excluding Alamo Wildlife Area, state, and private land.	The Alamo HMA boundary would be the same as the current HMA boundary from Alternative 1 plus HA lands to US 93, excluding the Alamo Wildlife Area, state, and private land. Management prescriptions for acceptable use levels would mitigate impacts to other resources.	The eastern boundary of the Alamo HMA would run west from the southern boundary of the Alamo Wildlife Area, and then extend south from the state land block within the Palmerita Allotment, excluding the Alamo Wildlife Area, state, and private land. This demarcation would provide protection for threatened and endangered species, riparian, and wildlife issues	
Rangeland Management/Grazing				
Open 1,148,743 acres	Open 213,731 acres	Open 1,148,743 acres	Open 1,121,701 acres	
Closed 211,022 acres	Closed 1,146,034 acres	Closed 211,022 acres	Closed 238,064 acres	
		Total 1,359,765 acres		
Special Area Designations				
32,608 acres designated as 1 ACEC.	138,987 acres designated between 8 ACECs.	37,484 acres designated between 5 ACECs.	77,825 acres designated between 6 ACECs.	74,554 acres designated between 5 ACECs.
1 Backcountry Byway identified.		7 Backcountry Byways identified.	2 Backcountry Byways identified.	

Table ES-2: Summary of Key Alternative Components

Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5 (Preferred)
Wilderness Characteristics				
Not address in previous plans.	197,821 acres allocated for management that maintains wilderness characteristics	BLM would not identify specific public lands for wilderness characteristics management.	41,590 acres allocated for management that maintains wilderness characteristics.	
Mineral Resources				
The total area open to mineral material disposal is 894,890 acres and 447,611 acres are restricted from mineral material development.	The total area open to mineral material disposal is 799,680 acres and 542,821 are restricted from mineral material development.	The total area open to mineral material disposal is 1,101,564 acres, 240,931 acres are restricted from mineral material development and 60,658 acres have a time restriction.	The total area open to mineral material disposal is 895,079 acres and 447,422 are restricted from mineral material development.	The total area open to mineral material disposal is 996,974 acres, 299,802 acres are restricted from mineral material development and 45,725 acres have a time restriction.
24,112 acres are restricted with a no surface occupancy stipulation for leasable minerals.	262,481 acres are restricted with a no surface occupancy stipulation, and 45,919 acres have a time restriction for leasable minerals	69,123 acres are restricted with a no surface occupancy stipulation, and 60,321 acres have a time restriction for leasable minerals.	113,910 acres are restricted with a no surface occupancy stipulation, and 56,131 acres have a time restriction for leasable minerals.	69,123 acres are restricted with a no surface occupancy stipulation, and 60,321 acres have a time restriction for leasable minerals.
1766 acres are recommended for withdrawal.	633 acres are recommended for withdrawal.	200 acres are recommended for withdrawal.	633 acres are recommended for withdrawal.	
Visual Resources Management				
179,200 acres Class I	120,600 acres Class I	246,500 acres Class I	120,600 acres Class I	179,200 acres Class I
253,400 acres Class II	306,800 acres Class II	524,600 acres Class II	202,600 acres Class II	202,200 acres Class II
526,100 acres Class III	363,600 acres Class III	207,900 acres Class III	620,100 acres Class III	568,700 acres Class III
404,700 acres Class IV	572,300 acres Class IV	384,300 acres Class IV	420,000 acres Class IV	413,200 acres Class IV

Environmental Consequences

Impacts to Cultural Resources

Cultural resources can potentially be disturbed or destroyed by all ground disturbances from activities including but not limited to right-of-way (ROW) construction, mineral extraction, or off-highway vehicular use. Disposal of public lands would include disposal of cultural resources. Enhanced management of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), lands with wilderness characteristics, designated Wilderness, some Recreation Management Areas (RMAs), Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) and Special Cultural Resource Management Areas (SCRMAs) has the potential to increase the protection of cultural resources, as do restrictions on mineral material disposals, mineral extraction, and occupancy.

Impacts to Paleontological Resources

All ground disturbance from activities include, but are not limited to, ROW construction, mineral extraction, or off-highway vehicular use have the potential to disturb or destroy paleontological resources. Disposal of public lands could include disposal of paleontological resources. Enhanced management of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), lands with wilderness characteristics, designated Wilderness, some Recreation Management Areas (RMAs), Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) and Special Cultural Resource Management Areas (SCRMAs) has the potential to increase the protection of paleontological resources, as do restrictions on mineral material disposals, mineral extraction, and occupancy.

Impacts to Biological Resources

Impacts to Biological Resources are complex and species dependent. Those management decisions that protect and/or enhance environmental values affect biological resources by promoting increased diversification of vegetation, fish, and wildlife habitat. Impacts from decisions that are potentially incompatible with biological resources could destabilize soils, vegetative communities, and essential habitat requirements for fish and wildlife. Given widespread anticipated short-term growth in the planning area, the importance of public land health is amplified on a system basis. Results of these incompatible land use decisions into the long term could decrease biotic diversity, and productivity while enabling establishment of noxious species. This ecosystem has already been altered significantly. Land use plan decisions enabling further disturbance to the biological community will have to be rehabilitated, monitored, and/or mitigated to sustain the vitality of existing biological conditions.

Impacts to Recreation Management

The Preferred Alternative seeks a balance between public use and resource protection. Additional recreation access, facilities, and opportunities would be developed in response to the need to reduce user and resource conflicts. This alternative provides a range of recreation opportunities, embraces interdisciplinary management, and engages the use of recreation facilities as a tool to further protect and enhance other resources. Alternative 1 represents the current management systems, policies, and practices; therefore, the continuation of current impacts is expected. These impacts are listed below:

- A recreation management response that is not meeting visitor demand.
- A recreation management response that is not protecting resources by improved user ethic.
- Deterioration of both the recreation experience, and other resource values by less proactive management of visitors
- Deterioration of current recreation facilities.
- Inadequate visitor service programs and policies to meet increasing visitor demand.

Alternative 2 provides for greater opportunities for low impact recreational experiences and offers sensitive resources a higher level of protection, however great controls and limits are placed on recreation experiences. Alternatives 3 and 4 provide greater opportunities for intensive recreation experiences, such as OHV activities and power boating and impacts similar to those of the Preferred Alternative; in addition Alternative 4 provides consideration for the greater protection of other resource concerns.

Impacts to Transportation and Public Access

On the whole the transportation and public access alternatives are for the enrichment of this privilege, and the protection of public safety and other resources. Natural resource impacts are expected from these decisions, however the level of these impacts are indefinable, since so much is dependent on the route designation process to be completed after the RMP. The Preferred Alternative provides a balance between the needs of public access, the existing transportation network, and the protection of sensitive resources. Alternative 1 represents the current management systems, policies, and practices; therefore, the continuation of current impacts is expected. These impacts include such things as:

- Proliferation of motorized routes and trails throughout the planning area
- Unmanaged public access to sensitive resources
- A lack of visitor services and education with the intent to create a better user ethic
- Confusion by the public as to what trails are open and available for use

Alternative 2, in emphasizing resource protection, limits public access and places additional controls on the users of the transportation network that is in contradiction with

current use patterns. Alternative 3 enhances public access specifically to the Lake Havasu Shoreline. Alternative 4 again provides a more balanced approach and the expected environmental impacts are similar to those of the Preferred Alternative.

Impacts to Lands and Realty

Under all alternatives the Lands and Realty (L&R) program will have the ability to dispose and acquire land and issue Use Authorization Permits. Therefore no direct or indirect impacts should occur to the management of the L&R program.

Impacts to Wild Burros

Overall, impacts to wild burros would be through the loss of available habitat.

The Havasu-CA HMA would be managed in accordance with the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (2002) with the Appropriate Management Level (AML) established at 108 burros.

Under the Preferred Alternative, which is also Alternatives 2 and 4, the Havasu-AZ HMA would be reduced by approximately 14,300 acres. These 14,300 acres would no longer be included within the HMA. This action would reduce wild burro exposure to the heavy vehicle traffic of State Route 95, and improve public safety. The loss of habitat would require an adjustment in the AML to 166 burros.

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Alamo HMA would be reduced by approximately 87,800 acres. The current boundary HMA boundary would be withdrawn to the west boundary of state lands within the Palmerita Allotment, and the Alamo Wildlife Area is excluded from the HMA. The Preferred Alternative would allow burro use within the Wildlife Area through close coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The AML would be adjusted to 160 burros.

Under Alternatives 1 and 3, the Havasu-AZ HMA would remain at the current AML of 170, and all of the HA would be the HMA. Under Alternative 2, the Alamo HMA would be adjusted by approximately 94,441 acres, and the AML reduced to 156 burros. Under Alternative 3 the current boundary of the Alamo HMA would be expanded to include the entire HA. This outcome would increase the acreage by approximately 11,200 acres, and the AML would be 200. Under Alternative 4 the Alamo HMA would be reduced by approximately 87,800 acres, and the AML would be 160 burros.

Impacts to Livestock Grazing

Impacts to livestock grazing would be minimal. The Preferred Alternative would cancel grazing on one ephemeral allotment, approximately 27,000 acres, due to recreational allocations and lack of facilities to maintain livestock. Except for Alternative 2, which would close all grazing allotments managed by the Lake Havasu Field Office, no other activities are planned. Authorized use would remain at 14,051 Animal Unit Months

(AUMs). The plan establishes criteria to be used in allotment evaluations to determine if reclassification to Ephemeral is appropriate. Land tenure adjustments could, if all identified lands are disposed of, reduce the authorized use by approximately 900 AUMs. The continued expansion of dispersed recreation would have some impacts on livestock grazing but these impacts can be mitigated.

Impacts to Special Area Designations

All approved activities such as, but not limited to, ROW construction or mineral extraction within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) or immediately adjacent to Back Country Byways have the potential to adversely affect resources identified for protection. Any activity within designated Wilderness has the potential to impact the wilderness experience. Acquisition of inholdings or private minerals would enhance management of identified values.

Impacts to Wilderness Characteristics

All approved activities including, but not limited to, ROW construction, mineral extraction or recreational off-highway vehicle use within areas allocated for wilderness characteristics have the potential to adversely affect resources identified for protection. Acquisition of inholdings or private minerals would enhance management of identified values.

Impacts to Minerals

The areas where mineral development is restricted result from the prioritization of other resources above mineral development, or are not compatible with mineral development. Such resources include cultural, biological, and recreation.

Impacts to Visual Resources

Impacts to Visual Resources can be characterized as those allocations or actions that result in loss, degradation of form, line, contrast texture, or color of the landscape on BLM administered public lands, beyond the limits permitted or established as visual resource objectives for a specific area of public land. All implementation actions for this RMP, or any action through NEPA would seek by design or through mitigation, to meet the visual resource class objective set by this RMP for a specific location

Impacts to Socioeconomic Resources

LHFO manages public land within the context of the local and regional socioeconomic environment. Management activities in the areas of lands and realty, rangeland and grazing, recreation, minerals, transportation and public access, and the LHRMA all impact the socioeconomic environment in one way or another and to a greater or lesser

extent. Historically, extractive economic activities like mining and grazing were predominant uses of the public lands and had significant impacts on the local/regional economy. Now these uses are less significant to the local and regional socioeconomic environment since they account for a much smaller portion of the overall economy. Recreation related activities and services, and general public access for a variety of reasons have become much more important uses of public lands within the planning area. The local tourism industry is the major industry in the area now, and will likely be into the future. That industry depends upon public land qualities, the natural resources it sustains, and the recreation opportunities it provides. The development of the alternatives and especially the selection of the Preferred Alternative have all occurred with these changes and their resultant impacts in mind.

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